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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

5/12/94

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

S/S

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DECL:OADR

TO: The Acting Secretary  
THROUGH: P - Mr. Tarnoff  
FROM: AF - Edward Brynn, Acting  
SUBJECT: Update on Diplomatic Efforts on Rwanda

SUMMARY

The situation in Rwanda remains critical, with heavy fighting continuing in Kigali. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) now controls the northeastern part of the country from the Ugandan to the Tanzanian border. The Government of Rwanda (GOR) controls the west and southwest. The UNSC is discussing options for a UN military presence in Rwanda to protect civilians. Airlift of some humanitarian assistance supplies to Burundi and Tanzania is being provided by the U.S. military.

DISCUSSION

Consistent with our policy objectives in Rwanda, namely to stop the killings, achieve a durable cease-fire, return the parties to the negotiating table, contain the conflict and assure access for humanitarian relief efforts, we have continued to work on many bilateral and multilateral fronts to achieve these objectives. First and foremost was A/S Shattuck's trip to Addis Ababa and to Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi to support African efforts to bring about a ceasefire and a return to the Arusha negotiations. Vice President Gore met with UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali, OAU Secretary General Salim Salim and Tanzanian President Mwinyi in Pretoria to discuss international efforts to ease the crisis in Rwanda. The Vice President confirmed that the US was prepared to support a proposal to create areas of safety for displaced persons within Rwanda near the borders of Burundi and Tanzania, where the greatest concentrations of people in peril are now located.

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- 2 -

The interagency community has produced a concept paper which flushes out the agreed general position of the U.S. that secure zones should be established. Our paper was sent to the UN for discussion. Our proposal concentrates on providing safety zones behind GOR lines, where the risk is greatest for civilians. The UNSC is now discussing a draft resolution to increase UNAMIR's strength and expand its mandate to protect civilians in secure areas.

ICRC and NGOs report that they are now able to safely carry out relief operations in northern Rwanda in RPF controlled areas. Relief workers are doing cross-border operations from Uganda into northern Rwanda. An OFDA assessment team is scheduled to travel into northern Rwanda with international relief agencies on May 13 to conduct a quick assessment of the humanitarian situation around Mulindi (northern Rwanda, near the Ugandan border). In response to UNHCR requests, the U.S. military has begun airlifting humanitarian supplies into Tanzania to assist with relief efforts in the region.

We continue to emphasize to any and all Rwandan government officials their responsibility to bring about an immediate end to the killings. In particular, AF DAS Bushnell has repeatedly telephoned senior GOR military officers to impress upon them their moral duty to end the massacres, and to remind them that the world holds them responsible for the fate of civilians behind GOR lines. We have also asked key African and Western posts to demarche Rwandan Ambassadors in their countries to reinforce our call on the GOR to end the massacres.

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